



# GAZEBO EXPRESS

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENT SOURCE FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND • AUGUST 2010

## LINCOLN COMMUNITY CENTER IMPROVEMENTS



## \$10 MILLION PROJECT UNDER WAY

More than once over the last two decades, Tom Arnold wondered if he and his fellow Park Board members would be able to get a total renovation of the World War II-vintage Lincoln Center off the drawing board.

Later this month, Arnold will join other park and town officials and dig in with ceremonial shovels to declare the \$10 million project under way. Construction is scheduled to begin Sept. 1.

Nothing could make the Highland native happier. "I have been on the Park Board for 20 years. I'm one of the old-timers," he said.

### GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY


**WHEN:** Festivities begin at 6 p.m. **Aug. 23.** The groundbreaking ceremony will take place at 6:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

**INFO:** Call Parks and Rec at (219) 838-0114 or visit [www.highlandparks.org](http://www.highlandparks.org)

"During that time I have been involved in the bike trail and fieldhouse projects, but nothing compares to how I feel right now."

The renderings show how a bright and airy atrium will replace the entrance to the facility. Other drawings show a new fitness center, dance studio and gymnasiums.

"It's so dark and dreary in there right now but that is all about to change," Arnold said. "What I have seen is better than I ever envisioned it could be. This is a long-awaited project that I continue to get more and more excited about. I hope people in town do, too."

During Phase I, a new wing will be constructed east of the existing building. That work is scheduled for completion June, 2011. During the second phase, the existing north and east wings will be razed and the kitchen, gym, locker rooms and bathrooms will be rehabbed. 

## DEALERSHIP DONATES \$4,000 TO SPUR DEVELOPMENT

Circle Buick GMC has donated \$4,000 to spur economic redevelopment in town.

Wayne Druktenis is co-owner of the business that will be moving from Schererville to Highland in a few months. He said the dealership is proud of the partnership it forged with the town of Schererville and is excited at the prospect of becoming part of the Highland community.

Long active in supporting youth sports, Druktenis said the company has always believed in being more than simply a

business owner and plans to become highly involved in supporting Highland.


"This is something we believe in, something we enjoy," he said. "We believe you will find us to be a good neighbor."

The Town Council took final action in July to grant the dealership a 10-year tax abatement on new construction necessary to ready the property at 2440-45th Street for business.

In all, Druktenis said the company is planning to spend \$500,000 on renovations

and improvements to the site to create a high-end automobile dealership that will cater to Indiana, as well as Illinois, customers.

The company will specialize in the sale and service of Buick, GMC and Lexus vehicles at the Highland location.

Construction is expected to begin by mid-August and the dealership plans to be open for business by late summer. Over the term of the abatement, the dealership plans to add 10 new jobs. 

## ZEMEN HEADS TO HAITI

Councilman Bernie Zemen joined local doctor, Dr. Chris McIntire, on a week-long humanitarian trip to Haiti as part of a "Life for the World" missions.

Zemen will document the trip in photos, images that McIntire will use when he gives talks to local groups about "Life for the World."

The group, which will be roughing it in tents and temperatures that exceed 100 degrees, took donated food and medicine as part of the humanitarian effort.

## YOUR COUNCILMAN



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## NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?

Send your suggestions to:



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# REFUSAL OF OPTION INCOME TAX FORCES TOWN TO SLASH BUDGET

Council President Mark Herak has asked every department head to shave 4.35 percent from their 2011 budgets.

Although the cost-cutting won't balance the budget completely, it will eliminate more than \$300,000 from the deficit and bring the town's spending for 2011 within \$50,000 of anticipated revenues.

"This is something we need to do," Herak said. "Other communities are laying people off and having furlough days because they are so cash-strapped. We are fortunate in Highland that we have not had to do that. Asking each department to live within 95.65 percent of their budget is realistic."

The current budget constraints are the result of a state mandate that will continue to punish all communities in Lake County for the county council's refusal to enact a one percent local option income tax.

The state mandate means that no government in Lake County can increase the amount of money it raises through property taxes. The taxes on buildings and property provides the bulk of revenues for most units of government.

If the county enacts the tax on income, which was supposed to be an option for each of Indiana's 92 counties, the state has said it will allow communities to raise revenues.

"Although the state has tied our hands, we still have to pay our bills for gasoline, electricity and insurance in full and on time," Herak said. "Until something changes at the county or state level, that means we have to cut where we can. Our job is to be good stewards of revenues and keep our town in the best financial shape possible. Right now, that means making some cuts in order to get our budget as closed to balanced as possible." 🐦

# TEEN SINGS NATIONAL ANTHEM AT RAILCATS 'HIGHLAND NIGHT'

When Rebecca Haskell was four she found her pipes singing along with PBS' favorite purple dinosaur, Barney.

In July, the teen was selected to sing the National Anthem before a crowd of fans at the RailCats game against Fargo. Sadly, the team fell to their North Dakota rivals. For the Haskell, the night was still a Grand Slam.

Not prone to nerves, Rebecca says she found out about the audition and was pleased when her voice was selected to stand solo behind the mic to launch a RailCats game.

"I was able to pick the game where I would sing so I chose the Highland/Munster night," said the soon-to-be Highland High School senior. "There were so many people from Highland there. It was a lot of fun."

With theatre bills carrying her name from such productions as "Annie," "Fame," and "South Pacific," Haskell said there is something special that continues to draw her to musical theatre. Even though she doesn't know what Highland will produce this year,



Rebecca Haskell sings the National Anthem before a crowd of fans at the RailCats game.

she plans to participate and continue performing through college.

"I want to be a nurse. It might be that I can work toward a minor in theatre or music because it is something I have always loved to do," she said. "It has been wonderful because I have always had the support of my family. My dad is so proud of me. He's been telling everyone about the RailCats." 🐦

# THE LAKE COUNTY FAIR

**LONG-TIME RESIDENT MIKE FRALEY SERVES ON FAIR BOARD, ENSURES ANNUAL EVENT GOES OFF WITHOUT A HITCH**

Mike Fraley may have grown up as a town kid, but every year for 10 days his hang-out is the agriculture buildings and tents at the Lake County Fair.

As a member of the Lake County Fair Board for the last nine years, Fraley spends his time minding the store and making sure everything goes off without a hitch. That is no small feat. The event, which is run by the not-for-profit Lake County Agricultural Society, attracts about 250,000 people each year.

The long-time Highland resident was asked to get involved about 10 years ago. He says he didn't hesitate.

"It's a great deal of work. Most people see the 10 days of the fair as the only thing we do," Fraley said. "I spend about 100 hours at the fairgrounds during the 10 days. Then, we take a week or two off and start planning for next year's fair."

The Lake County Fair is an opportunity

## THE 2010 LAKE COUNTY FAIR

**WHEN:** 10 a.m. to midnight **Aug. 6-15**


**WHERE:** Lake County Fairgrounds, one mile south of the old Courthouse on the corner of Court Street and Greenwood Avenue.

**ADMISSION:** Free before 3 p.m. After 3 p.m., \$4 for individuals 13 and older and \$2 for children ages 9-12. Children under 8 free.

**PARKING:** \$4 on the fairgrounds; parking and shuttle are free at Crown Point High School.

**INFO:** [www.lake-county-fair.com](http://www.lake-county-fair.com).

for residents in the urban north to see what happens in the agricultural south part of the county. "Our goal is to bring everybody together," he said. "We look to present the agricultural part of our county as well the industrial parts."

The operations manager for the family-owned steel fabricating business, Fraley said he enjoys the sights and smells of the fair. His favorite fair fare? Corn dogs, fresh roasted sweet corn and funnel cakes. 




## HIGHLAND TO HOST FIRST-EVER CABBAGE FEST

In a nod to Highland's heritage, the town will be hosting its first-ever tribute to the pungent and healthy cabbage Oct. 15-17.

Kim Kosmas, who is helping to coordinate the Highland Cabbage Fest as a member of the Council of Community Events, said she hopes the community gets behind the unique autumn festival.

"This won't be like any other festival that is held in Highland," Kosmas said. "Our vendors will feature different food offerings and our entertainment will be unique as well."

Just for the record: It really was cabbage — or more specifically sauerkraut — that put Highland on the map when Archibald McNeil and the brothers, Arthur and Charles Libby decided the town was the perfect site for expansion of their kraut processing plant. It would be 20 more years before Highland would be incorporated as a town. By that time, the town was a ready canner of processed cabbage grown by local farmers.

Look in upcoming issues of the Gazebo Express for more on Cabbage Fest 2010. 

## ALL-STARS CAPTURE DISTRICT CROWN

Congratulations to Highland's 11- and 12-year-old All Stars who won their respective Indiana District 2 championships in July.

Founded in 1963, the town has won nine Indiana District 2 titles; five of them since 2004. This year, 503 youths participated in the Highland Little League program from T-Ball through the majors.

Highland Little League President Dan Vassar said 2010 was a great season.

"I am proud of all of these kids who come out for practice and give it their all — every game, win or lose," he said. "These kids show their character every time they step out on the field. It's great to see how this program continues to grow."

## MAJOR BOYS TEAM ...

The 12-year-old Major Boys Team won the championship game July 19 over Munster 3-2 in nine innings. They advanced to the Indiana State Finals in Pendleton. Terre Haute won the state championship.

**TEAM:** Brendan Anderson, Luke Boss, Brandon Burbridge, Charlie Gerstner, Ryan Griffin, Eryk Jones, Garret Lytle, Billy Polen, Conner Spear and Zach Vassar.

**MANAGER:** Mike Burbridge

**COACHES:** Frank Jones & Dennis Spear

## TOURNAMENT TEAM ...

The 11-year-old Tournament Team took home the championship title July 24 after 12 nail-biting innings against Dyer. They advanced to the Indiana State Finals in Fort Wayne.

**TEAM:** Brandon Geringer, Darnell Harwood, Luke Hillegonds, Jack Holl, Chris Manyek, Pat Manyek, Trevor O'Donnell, Luke Podgorny, Sully Stickann, Vinny Stoll, Jarrod Thiele and Angel Vaquera.

**MANAGER:** Mike Stickann

**COACHES:** John Geringer & Brian O'Donnell

## LATE REGISTRATION ...

Highland Little League still has room in the fall T-Ball/Rookie Division for boys and girls ages 4 to 6.

**REGISTRATION:** Call HLL President Dan Vassar at (219) 924-1945.

# PUCKERFACE 2010 5K RACE

2.5K WALK



**SATURDAY  
SEPTEMBER 11**

## REGISTER TODAY!

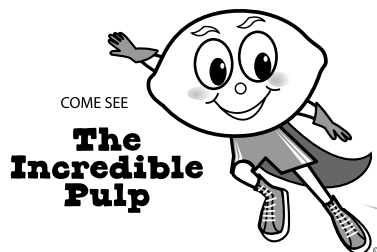
Are you ready to suck it up and run? Or do you just want to walk it out. Sign up for Zest Fest's 4th Annual Pucker Face 5K Race/2.5K Walk. It is a fun event for the whole family. The race begins and ends near Main Square Park. Prizes will be awarded for the top three winners in each class. Stick around after the race for the Zest Fest Festivities!

**RACE DATE:** Saturday, Sept. 11 — Main Square Park

**FEE:** \$20 for the 5K run, \$15 for the 2.5K walk

**EARLY REGISTRATION DEADLINE:** Aug. 29

**FOR MORE INFO:** Call the chamber office at (219) 923-3666 or visit [www.midwestzestfest.com](http://www.midwestzestfest.com).



### MIDWEST ZEST FEST

Enjoy your favorite festival food, carnival rides, arts & crafts, live music, contests and the crowning of a king and queen.

**Three days of fun — Sept. 10-12**

Check [www.midwestzestfest.com](http://www.midwestzestfest.com) for updates!

### A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM

A slave named Pseudolus attempts to win his freedom by helping his young master woo the girl next door.

**WHEN:** 8 p.m. **Aug. 5-7 and 12-14**

**WHERE:** Main Square Park

**FEE:** Free and open to the public

**NOTE:** Bring your own lawn chair for seating. Concession stand will be open. Programs are \$2. Proceeds help pay for theater supplies and equipment.

**INFO:** Call (219) 838-0114 or visit [www.highlandparks.org](http://www.highlandparks.org)

### BATTLE ON THE RIDGE

Battle on the Ridge, a revolutionary war reenactment, begins with opening colors at 10 a.m. both days.

**WHEN:** Begins at 10 a.m. **Aug. 21-22**

**WHERE:** Main Square Park

**INFO:** Call (219) 838-0114 or visit [www.highlandparks.org](http://www.highlandparks.org)

### NFL PUNT, PASS & KICK

This event — held in conjunction with the Highland High School Tailgate party — is open to boys and girls ages 8-15.

**WHEN:** 5 p.m. **Aug. 27**

**REGISTRATION:** Deadline is **Aug. 22**. Birth certificate required.

**WHERE:** Highland High baseball field

**FEE:** Free

**NOTE:** Tennis shoes only; no cleats

**INFO:** Call (219) 838-0114 or visit [www.highlandparks.org](http://www.highlandparks.org)

### HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY

To make your environment safer, the town will collect batteries, household cleaners, oils, paints, solvents, poisons, pesticides, anti-freeze, gasoline, mercury thermometers, thermostats and fluorescent bulbs. Items not accepted include tires, appliances, ammunition, medical/biological waste, explosives, radioactive wastes, asbestos, 30-gallon or larger containers.

**WHEN:** 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Aug. 28**

**WHERE:** Highland Public Works

**NOTE:** Waste oil in large containers will be evacuated at 1:30 p.m.

**INFO:** Call (219) 972-5069